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Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Agenda item 54: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.13 and L.40)

Draft resolution on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

1. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.40, which was being submitted by Ms. Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.13. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Ms. Santizo-Sandoval** (Guatemala), Vice-Chairperson, in recommending the draft resolution for adoption, suggested that the floor might be given to the facilitator of the informal consultations in order for him to present an amendment that had been made to the text already circulated.

3. **Mr. Elbakly** (Egypt) said that the final clause of paragraph 21 of the draft resolution should read: "and takes into account also the relevant provisions of paragraphs 10, 14 and 15 of resolution 1 of CSD-11".

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.40, as orally revised, was adopted.*

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.13 was withdrawn.*

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.16 and L.41)

Draft resolution on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

6. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, in the English version only of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.41, the numbering of the paragraphs had inadvertently been omitted. The paragraphs should therefore be numbered sequentially from 1 to 14.

7. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.41, which was being submitted by Ms. Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.16. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.41 was adopted.*

9. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.16 was withdrawn.*

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.12 and L.38)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

10. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38, which was being submitted by Ms. Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.12. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in the ninth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38, the number of parties in annex I to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should read 38 and not 39.

12. **Ms. Santizo-Sandoval** (Guatemala), Vice-Chairperson, recommended the draft resolution for adoption with a minor drafting change. In the twelfth preambular paragraph, the word "discussion" should read "discussions".

13. **The Chairperson** said that a recorded vote had been requested on paragraph 11 of A/C.2/62/L.38, as orally corrected.

14. **Mr. Snowden** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation would vote against paragraph 11 of the draft resolution because it was disappointed by the continued diversion of resources from the United Nations regular budget to subsidize independent and self-sustaining treaty bodies and conventions such as

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As a matter of principle, treaty bodies and conventions should collect the funds necessary to finance their activities from their membership. His delegation would continue to support the objectives of the Convention through its voluntary contributions.

15. **Mr. Nagahara** (Japan), also speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that Japan appreciated the flexibility of the Member States that had participated in the negotiations on the draft resolution and noted that the current draft resolution would send a positive message to the forthcoming Bali Climate Change Conference. However, Japan could not agree with paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was an independent treaty body with its own budget and secretariat. Moreover, given that not every Member State was a party to the Convention, the cost of conference services for the Bali Conference should be separate from the United Nations regular budget.

16. *A recorded vote was taken on paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38, as orally corrected.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Japan, United States of America.

17. *Paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38, as orally corrected, was adopted by 160 votes to 2.**

18. **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, welcomed the consensus that had been achieved on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38 and said that the draft resolution was a significant step towards an adequate response by the General Assembly to the serious threat posed by climate change.

19. However, the European Union would have also liked the draft resolution to draw attention to the fact that 2008 was the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/53, which had recognized that climate change was a common concern of mankind and had led to the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The draft resolution should have also fully and more specifically acknowledged the scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Scientific evidence in the Panel's most recent synthesis report confirmed and strengthened previous warnings about the challenge of climate change in view of the unequivocal evidence of global warming. Climate

* The Kenyan delegation subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of paragraph 11.

change was increasingly a contributing factor to environmental, economic and security threats. If left unchecked, it would prevent the international community from achieving the Millennium Development Goals which were at the heart of its developmental efforts. The General Assembly should therefore take up the issues raised in the current resolution in future years.

20. The scale of the challenge and the urgency of the threat called for unprecedented international cooperation from all countries based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The European Union supported United Nations efforts to combat climate change and particularly looked forward to the Bali Climate Change Conference, which must establish a clear road map towards an effective post-2012 regime by 2009 in order to avoid an implementation gap between the two commitment periods. While the European Union would continue to strengthen its environmental commitments, the entire international community must also acknowledge that climate change posed a real threat that required urgent action.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.12 was withdrawn.*

23. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, which would help to create a favourable environment for the forthcoming negotiations in Bali. He also called for all countries to ensure the timely adoption and ratification of the amendment to annex B to the Kyoto Protocol, which was referred to in the tenth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.14 and L.39)

Draft resolution on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session

24. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.39, which was being submitted by Ms. Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.14.

25. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution and referring to paragraphs 14 and 16 thereof, said that provisions had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for implementing the terms of the resolution. Therefore, should the Committee adopt draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.39, there would be no requirement for additional appropriations since the necessary expenses would be accommodated within existing resources. In formulating his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, the Secretary-General had reviewed the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and the resource requirements contained therein were considered adequate to respond to the terms of the draft resolution.

26. With regard to paragraphs 14 and 16, attention was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the General Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.39 was adopted.*

28. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.14 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.